

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (48/14)

Justin Chadwick (12 December 2014)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "Painting is just another way of keeping a diary" Pablo Picasso

DIARIES FOR 2015

For those of you who have not yet got 2015 diaries – **CATCH A WAKE UP – IT'S 18 DAYS AWAY!** For those who are awake please take note of the following dates; the very popular Packhouse Study Group Workshops will take place in January and February; In Limpopo there will be two workshops – one 27/28 January and the other 29/30 January. Mpumalanga 10-11 February; KZN and Swaziland 12,13 February; Eastern Cape 17,18 February and Western Cape 19,20 February. Venues, times and agenda's will be circulated as soon as finalised. The first CGA Citrus Summit will take place on 11 and 12 March 2015 at the Hans Merensky Hotel in Phalaborwa. A golf day will be organised (10th or 13th); as well as study group tours of Hoedspruit and Letsitele on both 10th and 13th. For growers in the south who have yet to see a lion Phalaborwa is a stones throw from Kruger National (not that throwing stones will assist if confronted by a lion) – so take a long weekend after the Summit to see the Park.

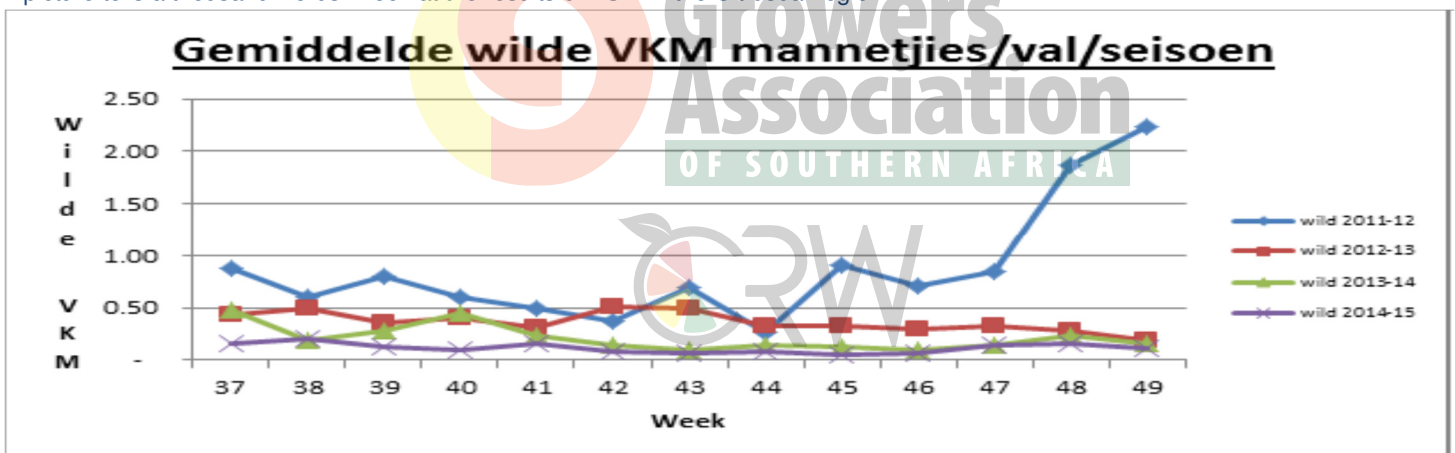
Details will be made available as plans unfold; BUT all growers MUST attend. The first Summit will be "inwardly looking" – making sure that the CGA Board has properly identified strategic priorities and ensuring staff are correctly implementing actions to address these priorities.

You can register at <http://dev.cga.co.za/summit/index.php>

RIVER BIOSCIENCE – OWNED BY GROWERS FOR GROWERS

River Bioscience's (RB) aim is to provide means of suppressing pests in citrus that would lead to zero residues, which would make South African citrus a standout in the international citrus market. RB have provided no residue products like Cryptogran, which has repeatedly proven to be just as effective as chemical alternatives, profits generated from Cryptogran have been reinvested back into the citrus industry. The expansion of XSIT to the Sundays River Valley and Patensie, as well as 4 new gyrocopters necessary for distribution were funded by River Bioscience, and remaining profits were paid as dividends to the CGA. With the brand new registration of Cryptogran on crops like table grapes, peaches, plums and macadamias profit can now be generated outside the citrus industry for the citrus industry. Cryptogran is now registered without the use of molasses. Exciting new developments include 1) the improved M3 in your orchards this season, no washing out or drying out 2) A new ant bait 3) New CBS product 4) Zero residue products for thrips, mealybug and red scale are being developed. RB is proud to serve the citrus industry and rely on your loyal support.

A picture tells a thousand words – look at the results of XSIT in the Citrusdal region:



PACKAGING – AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE VALUE CHAIN

During the past year Sappi again tested the cartons of all the accredited carton manufacturers on a regular basis. The tests were done at the Sappi SANAS accredited laboratory at the Sappi Technology Centre in Pretoria. Based on the 2014 laboratory test results and other CRI and growers assessments the following carton manufacturers were accredited for the 2015 citrus season. In alphabetical order:

APL Cartons, Corroseal, Houers Koöperatief, Mpact Corrugated, Nampak Corrugated, New Era Packaging, Sunnypacks.

Then the very good news from Dawid Groenewald (the very capable, reliable and energetic convenor and Chairman of the Packaging Working Group – who held a constructive meeting on 5 November; it is great to see such robust discussion on this important topic) - during the meeting Sappi announced that they will continue to test the cartons for the citrus industry in 2015 and that they will again carry all the costs. This is wonderful news. **SINCERE THANKS TO SAPPI FOR CONTINUING WITH THIS IMPORTANT WORK (AND AT THEIR COST).**

GROWERS ENSURE A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY BY FUNDING AND GUIDING THE CGA GROUP (CRI; CITRUS ACADEMY; CGACC; RB AND XSIT)